

REMARKS

Claims 5, 10 and 31-36 currently appear in this application. The Advisory Action of September 17, 2001, has been carefully studied. It is believed that all of the claims are allowable, and favorable action is earnestly requested.

In the Advisory Action mailed September 17, 2001, the Examiner indicated that claim 5 is objected to as being confusing. That is, no art rejections have been made. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended to recite that the inhibitory agent is incorporated in an amount of at least 1% of the plant weight, and the inhibitory agent comprises at least about 20 w/w% trehalose.

The Examiner alleges that Maruta et al. add trehalose and pullulan to a plant or edible plant thereof, and that the trehalose composition can be added to beans with water and kneaded. It should be noted, however, that Maruta et al. in Example B-9 mix the adzuki beans with water and boil the beans, after which the trehalose syrup was added. It is clear that Maruta et al. add trehalose to cooked, not fresh, beans. In the examples B1-B23, Maruta et al. add trehalose to a number of different compositions. None of these examples discloses or suggests adding trehalose to fresh plant material. The materials to which Maruta et al. add trehalose as a stabilizer are a sweetener, hard candy, chewing gum, sweetened condensed milk, lactic acid beverage, powdered (not fresh) juice, custard cream, premix of starch paste, bean

paste (boiled beans), bread, ham, powdery peptide, powdered miso, powdery egg yolk, cosmetic cream, powdery (not fresh) ginseng extract, solid pharmaceuticals (interferon-alpha), sugar coated tablet, dentifrice, solid preparation for intubations feeding, hyperalimentation, and ointment for treating trauma. Additionally, in the examples given at column 13, there is no disclosure of adding trehalose to fresh plant material, as fruit pickles and pickled radishes are by definition not fresh--the pickling preserves these materials. None of these suggests using trehalose as an agent which inhibits active-oxygen-eliminating activity in fresh plant materials, as there is no disclosure of active-oxygen-inhibiting activity nor of use of trehalose in fresh plant materials.

Cardona adds nothing to Maruta et al., as Cardona is not concerned with inhibiting active-oxygen-eliminating activity in plants. Cardona discloses a medicinal antioxidant, i.e., and antioxidant which is ingested in order to destroy free radicals and eliminate degenerative disorders. Since there is no evidence that plant materials exhibit degenerative disorders, there would be no reason to treat plant material with trehalose according to Cardona.

Mandai et al. add nothing to the disclosures of Maruta et al. and Cardona. Mandai et al. use anhydrous trehalose as a desiccant to stabilize food products. Mandai et al. require that the trehalose be anhydrous so that it can

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remove water from the products it is to stabilize by drying. There is absolutely no recognition by Mandai et al. that anhydrous trehalose can be used to inhibit active-oxygen-eliminating activity.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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5. (Seventh Amendment) A method for inhibiting the decrease of naturally occurring active-oxygen-eliminating activity in a fresh plant in need thereof when the fresh plant is sliced or disrupted, or when an edible part of the fresh plant is disrupted, which comprises a step of

incorporating homogeneously, in an aqueous system, at least 1% of an inhibitory agent based on said fresh plant or said edible part on a dry solid basis into said fresh plant or an edible part of said fresh plant which ~~and~~ inhibitory agent has an active-oxygen-eliminating activity, said inhibitory agent comprising an ~~amount~~ effective amount of trehalose, and optionally at least one member selected from the group consisting of pullulan and cyclodextrin, ~~for said inhibition,~~ and said inhibitory agent contains at least about 20 w/w% trehalose on a dry solid basis.